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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 004831

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS RALLY IN GAZA TO CELEBRATE UPCOMING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL; LOW LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN GAZA AS POLICE ARREST DOZENS OF PROTESTERS; AUGUST 4, 2005 (1500 HOURS LOCAL)

REF: TEL AVIV 4804

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

[11.](#) (SBU) Summary: The IDF reported one mortar attack and five shooting incidents in Gaza overnight with no injuries. Israeli police and army units arrested up to 200 protesters attempting to infiltrate into Gaza. According to UNRWA, some 15,000 Palestinians held a rally outside the Palestinian Legislative Council building in Gaza City to celebrate the upcoming Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. In the West Bank, IDF forces arrested at least 13 Palestinians August 3, including in Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and Jenin. Most of those arrested were politically affiliated with Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hamas. End summary.

Gaza

[12.](#) (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: UNRWA reported that on August 4 at 0700 hrs, the father of a Palestinian boy who was killed when a home-made rocket missed its target and hit his house in Beit Hanoun, also died of his wounds.

-- Injuries: UNRWA reported that on August 3 at 2300, a dispute broke out between two families in Gaza City. Family members chased each other and two members of one of the families were shot and injured.

-- Mortar: The IDF reported one mortar shell fired on August 4 at Netzer Hazani. Related to this incident, UNRWA reported that the IDF lit the area with flares and retaliated with heavy machine gun fire for five minutes at the Al Satter al Gharbi Palestinian area. No injuries were reported.

-- Mortar: According to UNRWA, Palestinian militants fired two mortar shells at the Gani Tal settlement August 4 at [10530](#). No injuries were reported.

-- Rockets: UNRWA reported that in the early morning of August 4, a home-made rocket fired by Palestinian militants missed the Netzarim settlement and landed in an open Palestinian area. No injuries were reported.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported that IDF outposts to the west and north of Khan Younis came under fire on four separate occasions on August 3. In addition, an IDF patrol south of Netzer Hazani was targeted on August 4.

[13.](#) (SBU) ARRESTS: Israeli press reported that the IDF and police arrested approximately 50 right-wing protesters for attempting to enter the Gaza Strip and approximately 150 others who succeeded in infiltrating into Nissanit. Israeli radio said that 160 activists have been arrested in the past three days near the Kissufim junction; 120 of them were later released.

[14.](#) (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open August 4, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open August 4 with 1,563 Palestinian laborers and 220 Palestinian merchants entering Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open August 4 with 436 Palestinian laborers entering the zone.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed August 4 for Palestinian laborers, but open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was partially open August 4

-- Rafah Terminal was open August 4 except for Palestinian

males between the ages of 16 and 35 traveling from Gaza to Egypt.

-- Toufah checkpoint was open in both directions for all Palestinians August 4, except males between 16 and 35 years of age.

15. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- UNRWA reported that the Islamic Jihad and the PFLP both claimed responsibility for firing an anti-tank missile at an Israeli patrol on August 2 (reftel).

-- According to the Israeli media, some factions of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) denied wire reports that it will refrain from mortar and rocket attacks from Gaza until after disengagement.

-- According to UNRWA, some 15,000 Palestinians associated with Fatah and other factions rallied outside the Palestinian Legislative Council building in Gaza City August 4 from 1100 to 1220 to celebrate the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

West Bank

16. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian reports, IDF soldiers opened fire and wounded one Palestinian when he apparently attempted to flee when ordered to stop near the village of Shuwaikah, near Tulkarm, August 3.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF forces arrested at least 13 Palestinians in different parts of the West Bank August 3 including Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and Jenin. Most of the arrested were politically affiliated with PIJ and Hamas, while two were Fatah members.

-- Security Incidents: According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, shots were fired at an IDF patrol car near Nablus and IDF positions near Tulkarm August 3. No injuries were reported.

17. (SBU) CLOSURES/CURFEWS:

-- According to Palestinian media, IDF troops set up at least four gates in the Old City of Hebron August 3 separating settler and Palestinian homes.

18. (SBU) CONFISCATIONS/DEMOLITIONS:

-- According to Palestinian reports, confiscation orders were issued for at least 2300 dunums of Palestinian-owned land in Surif and Beit Ummar villages in the Hebron governorate for the construction of the separation barrier August 3.

-- Palestinian sources reported that Israeli bulldozers destroyed a stone-cutting factory in Ar Ram, north of Jerusalem, for lack of building permit August 3.

19. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Palestinian Minister of Planning Ghassan al-Khatib reacted with sharp criticism to reports that the GOI Ministry of Construction and Housing issued tenders August 3 for the sale of 72 residential units, and 1400 square meters for commercial development of the Betar Illit settlement, southwest of Jerusalem, calling them provocation not just to the Palestinian Authority (PA), but to the whole international community, and a violation of the Road Map.

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